

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01
NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 INRE-00
SP-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 ACDE-00 IGA-02 /055 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2050

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5744

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
SUBJECT: A-7 STORY ON PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 127584

1. IF ACCURATE, THE UPI STORY ON PRESIDENTIAL DECISION AGAINST A-7 SALE IS DEEPLY DISTURBING BECAUSE OF REASONS FOR DECISION ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL SOURCES. DECISION ITSELF, IF IN FACT ALREADY TAKEN, WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO GOP (ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE GRACIOUS TO INFORM GOP OFFICIALLY RATHER THAN VIA THE AMERICAN PRESS). HOWEVER, WE ARE LAYING UNNECESSARY TRAPS FOR OURSELVES AND UNNECESSARILY IRRITATING THE GOP BY ASSERTING BOTH A DIMISHED THREAT FROM INDIA, AND PAKISTAN'S VIRTUAL WITHDRAWAL FROM CENTO AS REASONS AND BY RELATING THE DECISION TO OUR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY AS STATED PROVIDES THE PERFECT RATIONALE FOR A DECISION NOT TO SELL A-7'S TO PAKISTAN: NO FIRST INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THIS IS A FULLY ADQUATE BASIS FOR THE A-7 DECISION AND WE NEED NOT GO BEYOND IT IN ANNOUNCING THE DECISION.

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3. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION, I BELIEVE THE GOP SHOULD BE INFORMED BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND ISLAMABAD, LIMITING OUR OFFICIAL EXPLANATION TO THE RATIONALE IN PARA 2 ABOVE. I BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE TO REFER TO THE GUIDELINES FOR PAKISTAN SENT IN STATE 115244, IF THE SALE OF OTHER AIRCRAFT SUCH AS F-5E'S FALL WITHIN OUR NEW GUIDELINES (AND AS I READ THEM

THEY WOULD), WE SHOULD SUPPLEMENT OUR EXPLANATION ON THE
A-7 DECISION WITH AN INDICATION THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED
IN THE FUTURE TO CONSIDER SUCH SALES IF THE GOP IS
INTERESTED.
CONSTABLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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